

# Bottom Times

Scuba Shack Spring 2005 Issue

from . . . Dean's Desk

Winter's over, spring is here and summer is just around the corner. I don't know why I'm telling you this, as we've all been swatting black flies for a while. Although there are a few of us that have tried to maintain a slightly wet appearance, it is now officially time to start getting back into the water.

We've been working extremely hard to get all of our customer's equipment serviced and back to them so that we can now deal efficiently with all of the new exciting stuff that we're going to get into this summer. See additional story on page 3 - Spring Time Maintenance

The Scuba Shack will be hosting our 1st Annual Invitational Golf Tournament on Sunday the 26<sup>th</sup> of June at Deerhurst Lakeside Golf Course. Get more details from the insert to the **right**.

The Saturday drop in and dive has already begun. We've had divers phoning and arranging meetings at the Scuba Shack for the last few weeks already. We want to update and revamp our dive buddy list so if you seem to be spending more time looking for someone to go diving with than you do actually diving then the next time you're in the shop put your name on the new list and get ready to get wet. The more you stay in contact with us, the better we can help you stay in the water.

Roatan - WOW, what an unbelievable island to dive. With the second largest reef system in the world (and the healthiest) the walls and drop offs were beyond spectacular. The aquatic life was phenomenal. Our dive crews were first class, professional and had a great sense of humor. - Continued on page 2 'Roatan'.

We are so happy that our docking facilities for the Bottom Times have remained unchanged, despite the major changes that have been happening at the Muskoka Wharf Project in Gravenhurst Bay. We've been working on the Bottom Times for the last few weekends trying to get it a little prettier than she was last year. There is a new interior to the pilot house and new tank boards on the benches. A whole lot of polish and elbow grease have gone into her to get ready for the great diving that we're going to have on the Waome, over in Lake Joe, up in Lake of Bays and anywhere else that we can find to get wet. If your looking to go diving, give us a call and we'll get you aboard.

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Introducing the **2005 Scuba Shack Invitational Golf Tournament.**

**This is the 'Seals' Kick off for the summer of 2005. So don't miss it!**

**DATE:** Sunday, June 26th  
**TIME:** Tee times start at 11:00am  
**COURSE:** Deerhurst, Lakeside  
**COST:** \$70.00 for golf & BBQ

Cost for non-golfers who wish to join us for the bar-b-que and party is only \$15.00

The resort's original course, the Deerhurst Lakeside, was initially designed by C.E. Robinson in 1966, and then reconfigured by Thomas McBroom in 1990 to offer a gentle but surprisingly challenging round for **all** skill levels. The course is a par 65 which includes eight Par 3's, nine Par 4's and one Par 5, this course will test every club in your bag.

Power carts are included in the cost and rental clubs are available for those who need them.

The format is a best ball or scramble - so don't be shy. We hope to have all kinds of prizes donated to us from our suppliers.

Following the golf - we'll get together at Dean and Jane's house in Bracebridge for a BBQ and the prize draws. We should make it there at approximately 4:00 pm.

There is a limit of 24 golfers, so you better hurry if you want in. **Advance Registration By June 19<sup>th</sup> For This Fabulous Day is a Must.**



If you're looking for ongoing diving educational courses, check out the schedule on Page 4 of the newsletter. We've tried to accommodate everyone, but if there is something that you want and don't see – give us a call and we will do our best to make it happen.

## Roatan

**Two weddings, an anniversary plus some of the best diving in the world...** That kind of sums up our first week in Roatan. What a great group of divers and non-divers we had on the trip this year. It was an absolute pleasure to be a part of this group. We had two people earn their Certification cards within the first two days so they could fully enjoy the wonders of diving. As a side note – there was a little bet going on for Jaclyn – no **C** card, no **M**(arriage) card. You see, Jaclyn was marrying Kris one of our more avid divers and a frequent visitor and helper at the store.

We had Bob & Jean from Gravenhurst who loved the snorkeling and shared their 40<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary with us. They even had their own private 'love swing' just outside the bar... Then there was Juanita and James who also celebrated their marriage; you have no doubt seen both of them around the store as well – another great couple. There to witness their happy nuptials were Rayel, Juanita's Mom and brother from Drayton Valley, Alberta and James' brother Jason from St. Louis, who also earned his C card and experienced some dives that new divers don't often get the chance to experience... Including the SHARK Dive.

Speaking of Sharks; that was an incredible experience. The reef sharks were really incredible and our bottom time was approximately 45 minutes – so we really got to have a good look at them and see how they move through the water. We were fortunate to get this experience on DVD – so, if you'd like to see it just drop by the shop where you can borrow a copy for viewing, or purchase one if you want one to keep.

The other DVD we have gives a good cross section of the dives that we did. Mary's Place – was a beautiful dive with a drop to about 120' then a nice progressive climb through a crevice with lots of off shoots. The Wall, the Grotto, the west end, just to name a few more.

At the resort (Fantasy Island) there was awesome shore diving with a plane and a boat. It is Important to make sure that you give the diver in front plenty of room – otherwise a fin in the face – right Gary?

The days were pretty predictable, we'd all meet for breakfast about 7:30 then grab the gear and head

for the dive shop and dive, dive and more often than not – dive! The Divemaster and boat captain were great! They gave us some great direction and lots of laughs. Because we had such a great group we had our own boat, with the occasional guest diver tagging along. One of these guest divers we picked up at the airport of all places. Anne Marie was a great addition to the group and had plenty of attention. We hope she joins us again.

So, after the first week – the 2 wedding parties, the anniversary, the fun and frivolity; it was time for those staying for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week to give the Shark wave as the rest left the fun behind.

So what else did we do? Well, it wasn't a party place – I think one night we stayed on the beach until maybe midnight. We did see lots of monkeys, peacocks, iguanas, sand, surf and sun. The weather was awesome for the entire vacation if you forgive the odd little downpour. The people were for the most part friendly, but we were glad to have chosen a resort that had on-site representation from the tour operator. Jean Francois had some great ideas and helped us out when needed.

The best part of the vacation though in my opinion was diving with everyone and sharing that experience. Thanks to everyone for joining Jane and I and we'll keep everyone posted on our progress with destination options for next year.

Keep early February open on your calendars. We hope you can join us and experience some great diving and great times.

~ Dean ~

## Bonaire 2006

Join Scuba Shack in the cold month of February 2006, for something completely different... heat! Yes, again this year we're booking space in Bonaire! (If you're not familiar it's the 'B' of the 'ABC' islands north of Venezuela! Plan now to be **HOT** during the **cold**.

Bonaire is water, pure and full of color from the deep blue of the surrounding reef to the gentle turquoise of the shallows. Nowhere else in the Caribbean has an island protected its natural resources as Bonaire has. It is an island known far and wide for its commitment to the sea. Water has given Bonaire life. It is the heart of the economy. The people have received its gifts and in return, pledged to preserve its environment forever.

The passage of time has paid off handsomely. Bonaire's reefs are healthy and the corals are thriving. The island boasts sites where divers and snorkelers can count over 100 species of fish on a single dive! There are more than 80 marked sites and miles of coastline where one can walk into the pure calm

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waters for a dive or snorkel adventure of a lifetime. Bonaire's professional dive centers make it the perfect place to dive and snorkel. Kayakers, wind surfers, anglers and sailors also benefit directly from the conservation of Bonaire's most precious resource: Pure Water.

And, it's not just the diving! Bonaire is a destination where visitors can enjoy pure, natural settings; uncluttered and unspoiled. The island actively supports conservation and is keenly aware of the need to preserve their land for future generations. This awareness is evident in how the island has been developed: maintaining a balance and a way of life that is in harmony with the surroundings. Bonaire is a pioneer in Eco-tourism and the global efforts to preserve the environment.

Fully one third of the surface area of Bonaire will remain forever as a natural reserve for the flora and fauna of the island. Washington/Slagbaai National Park is just one of Bonaire's accomplishments. Another is the flamingo nesting grounds that have been set aside to protect their signature bird.

There are almost 200 other species of birds that make their way to Bonaire as well. Nature walks, guided tours in the National Park and visits with the island's naturalists reward visitors with a closer look at Bonaire.

Don't miss out on this fantastic journey! Check our website or visit our store for exact dates and to sign up.

## SEALS Dive Team

Last year was a fun season for the **SEALS Dive Team!** ... What? ... You missed out!?!? ... Well, not to worry, 2005 promises to be even better with opening new dive sites in the Huntsville area and even more great camaraderie! Our first dive will commence on June 29th, and continue every Wednesday up until August 31st. The final club dive and bar-b-que with be Sunday September 11, For our weekly dive list visit our (yes finally updated) website:

**[www.scubashack.on.ca](http://www.scubashack.on.ca)**

Seals 2005 memberships include a (**new this year**) Scuba Shack Seals Dive Team Hat, 8% off in store regularly priced merchandise, and \$1.00 off air fills! Free year end dive followed by a fabulous bar-b-que and awards presentation. You can't go wrong for **\$45.00!**

Oh yeah...almost forgot - The first annual Scuba Shack Invitational Golf Tournament and bar-b-que is our season kick-off this year and takes place on Sunday June 26. More details on page one of the newsletter.

## Spring Time Maintenance

Once again, divers everywhere are preparing for a summer dive season. Many have already began, braving the cold waters just as the ice leaves the dock, or some even before. As the season prepares to commence, yearly equipment maintenance comes to mind for both the avid diver and novice alike. So, Here is a handy checklist for everyone to use to assure your equipment is ready and raring to go for the 2005 season.

— **Suits, Boots, Hood & Gloves:** Check all seams, soles, straps and zippers. If you find any cracks, or lesions – give us a call – there is likely a very quick and inexpensive way to ensure the seal will hold. For zippers – try zip-tech a heavy duty lubricant and seal. For small holes and cracks – **Aquaseal** works great when applied properly. For preventative maintenance we keep a good volume of **Seal Saver** in stock!

— **BCDs:** It is always a good idea to run **BC Life**, a conditioner and cleaner through the bladder and hoses even if you did it prior to storing. **BONUS:** It will smell fresher too! Many divers are finding it handy to bring in their BCDs for an annual checkup!

— **Regulators:** Should your regulator be checked out to ensure it will work properly for you? It is recommended by the manufacturer to be done every year and is not expensive at \$45.00 and can save you from a ruined dive.

Ever had a regulator free flow on you? Remember that SCUBA stands for Self Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus, you will find it very difficult to dive without a properly adjusted and maintained regulator. While you are underwater, it is your lifeline to a fun and enjoyable season.

— **Tanks:** Bring them in for a fill (\$7.00). If your tank requires a visual inspection, which is needed annually (\$25.00 including fill) or Hydrostatic testing, which is required every 5 years (\$45.00 including both a Visual and Fill), our certified technicians will look after you.

Here is a handy note that many divers miss, VIP labels and Hydrostatic Testing dates expire on the date stamped on the label or tank, they are not good for that month. So check those VIP and Hydro dates and bring em on down! Don't get caught short! (For those that do find themselves a tad tardy in bringing in their cylinders, we do have a full line of rental equipment).

— **Masks, Snorkels & Fins:** Just to get the sensation again, wear them in the bath or just around to house for a new perspective! No one will think you're crazy. Check that they have been stored properly and no mice nibbles have taken place ruining the seal.

— **Lights & Other Accessories:** Check your supply of fresh batteries, shampoos, conditioners. How is your Save-a-Dive Kit – need to add anything you used last year? Drop into the store, we do have a complete line of everything you will need for the 2005 season, including **Save-a-Dive Kits** and **UV Tech**, which protects all dive equipment from UV Damage, a must nowadays.

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## 2005 Course Schedule

**Skin Diving (Snorkeling)** ~ Learn proper snorkeling techniques & skills in just a few hours.

Cost: \$40.00

Dates: Thursday, June 23 9pm-11pm;  
Sunday, July 24 1pm-3pm;  
Sunday, August 14 1pm-3pm;

**Basic Open Water** ~ Full Certification as a Scuba Diver

Cost: \$395.00

Dates: Friday Eve. June 3, Thursday Eve. June 9, 16, 23  
Openwater June 25-26;  
Friday Eve., Saturday, Sunday July 22-24  
Openwater July 30-31;  
Friday Eve., Saturday, Sunday August 12-14  
Openwater August 20-21;

**Rescue** ~ Learn the skills required to prevent and manage diving emergencies. Improve your diving skills.

Cost: \$350.00 + manual & fills

Dates: Friday Eve., Saturday, Sunday August 12-14  
Dives August 20-21;

**Divemaster** ~ The first level in becoming a Scuba Instructor. Learn to organize, conduct and supervise recreational diving activities both land and boat based. Work as an instructional assistant.

Cost: \$450.00 + manual

Dates: TBA ~ call for dates & times;

**CPROX & CPR1st** ~ Learn the necessary skills to save a dive buddies life. You will learn the basics of CPR and Oxygen administration, or CPR and First Aid.

Cost: CPROX or CPR1st \$90.00

CPROX and CPR1st (combined) \$160.00

Dates: Thursday, July 14;  
Thursday, August 11;

**Nitrox Diver** ~ Certification allowing the open water diver to use Enriched Air Nitrox (EAN) mixes up to 40% Oxygen.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual

Dates: Saturday, June 18;  
Thursday, August 18;  
Thursday, September 15;

**Night / Low Visibility Diver Specialty** ~ Learn the procedures, techniques, and potential hazards associated with night diving or limited visibility so that you will be able to enjoy night diving with maximum confidence and safety.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual & fills

Dates: Friday Eve., Saturday, July 22-23;

**Navigation Specialty** ~ Learn how to navigate properly underwater using both natural and compass type navigation.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual & fills

Dates: Friday Eve., Saturday, July 8-9;  
Friday Eve., Saturday, August, 5-6;

**Search & Recovery Specialty** ~ Learn the special skills and techniques necessary to successfully plan, execute and evaluate a search and recovery dive.

Cost: \$150.00 + manual & fills

Dates: Friday Eve., Sunday, July 8,10;  
Friday Eve., Sunday, August, 5,7;

**Wreck Diver Specialty** ~ Learn to use proper equipment and techniques commonly employed while wreck diving. This course is a limited penetration course. Dives will take place in the St. Lawrence River. Student is responsible for boat fees, transportation & accommodations.

Cost: \$250 + manual & fills

Dates: September, TBA, Call for dates & times;

**Deep Diver Specialty** ~ This course will provide the necessary training to plan and execute dives between the depths of 60 ft to a maximum of 130 ft.

Cost: \$150 + manual & fills

Dates: Friday Eve., Saturday, June 24-25;  
Friday Eve., Saturday, July 29-30;

**Dry Suit Diver Specialty** ~ This course allows you to develop knowledge and skills to properly use a Dry Suit. It will discuss the different types of Dry Suits, accessories, maintenance and how to make basic repairs.

Cost: \$150 + manual & fills

Dates: Saturday, June 18;  
Saturday, September 10;

**Equipment Specialty** ~ This course is designed to give a more in-depth look at how dive equipment works. It will cover general repairs and maintenance of different types of exposure suits, BCDs, regulators and other accessories.

Cost: \$90 + manual

Dates: Thursday August 25;

**TDI Advanced Nitrox & Decompression Procedures** ~ This course examines the use of EAN21 through EAN100 for optimal mixes to a depth of 150 fsw and the theory, methods and procedures of planned staged decompression.

Cost: \$695 + manual & gasses

Dates: Friday Eve., Saturday, Sunday, September 16-18, 23-25;

**PSI Visual Inspection** ~ Learn the proper techniques used to visually inspect and certify cylinders. Attendees of this course must show proof of employment with a retail scuba store, or attendance request letter from scuba club president.

Cost: \$295 + manual

Dates: October, TBA, call for dates & times;

**SDI Instructor Training Program** ~ You love to dive so why not become an SDI Open Water Scuba Instructor and do what you love and earn \$\$\$ at the same time.

Cost: \$2195 + manuals & registration fees & fills

Dates: TBA, call for dates & times;

Don't see what you want? Courses are continually added to our schedule, feel free to call us with any requests.

**Instructor level courses for all SDI and TDI levels are also available, call for information and registration.**

**Please be properly prepared for your course. Pre-registration is a must, as all academic materials must be read prior to attending class.**